

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A wound care device comprising chitosan, said chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel, and said chitosan being in the form of fibers having an absorption higher than about 20 g/g having been modified by treatment with acid in a solvent which is not able to dissolve the chitosan fibers and by treatment with heat.
2. (currently amended) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the chitosan has a viscosity of less than 1000 cP, ~~more preferred less than 500 cP, even more preferred less than 300 cP and most preferred from 40 to 200 cP,~~ measured on a 1% w/w chitosan solution in 1% aqueous solution of acetic acid.
3. (currently amended) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the proportion between the length and diameter of the fibers is at least 25, ~~more preferred more than 80, and most preferred more than 200.~~
4. (currently amended) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the chitosan fibers have an absorption higher than about 20 g/g, more preferred higher than 25 g/g, and most preferred higher than 30 g/g.
5. (currently amended) A wound care device according to claim 1 A method of preparation of a wound care device according to claim 12, characterized in that the acid is an hydroxy or acyl organic acid, which is soluble in the solvent used, preferably glycolic, glyoxylic, pyruvic, lactic or a hydroxy propionic/butanic acid.

6. (currently amended) ~~A wound care device according to claim 1~~ A method of preparation of a wound care device according to claim 12, characterized in that the heat treatment of the chitosan is carried out at a temperature of about 50 – 250 °C.

7. (previously presented) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the fibers are manufactured into a fibre rope, knitted, woven or non-woven sheet or pouch or in the form of an island dressing.

8. (previously presented) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the device comprises from 0-60% of fibers other than chitosan.

9. (currently amended) ~~A wound care device according to claim 1~~ A method of preparation of a wound care device according to claim 12, characterized in that the acid is a mixture of at least two acids.

10. (currently amended) ~~A wound care device according to claim 1~~ A method of preparation of a wound care device according to claim 12, characterized in that the ratio of acid to chitosan is from 2 mmol to 20 mmol acid per gram chitosan, ~~more preferred from 3 to 15 mmol acid per gram chitosan, and most preferred from 4 to 10 mmol acid per gram chitosan.~~

11. (currently amended) ~~A wound care device according to claim 1~~ A method of preparation of a wound care device according to claim 12, characterized in that the ratio of acid to chitosan is 2 to 7.5 mmol acid per gram chitosan, ~~more preferred 3 – 7.5 mmol acid per gram chitosan, and most preferred from 5 to 7 mmol acid per gram chitosan.~~

12. (previously presented) A method of preparation of a wound care device comprising chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel, said method comprises the steps of

- a) suspending the chitosan in the form of fibers in a non-solvent comprising acid
- b) isolating the resulting modified chitosan fibers from the non-solvent

c) treating the chitosan fibers with heat during step a) or/and b).

13. (previously presented) A method of preparation of a wound care device according to claim 12, characterized in that the fibers are manufactured into a fibre rope, knitted, woven or non-woven sheet or fabric.

14. (new) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the chitosan has a viscosity of less than 500 cP, measured on a 1% w/w chitosan solution in 1% aqueous solution of acetic acid.

15. (new) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the chitosan has a viscosity of less than 300 cP, measured on a 1% w/w chitosan solution in 1% aqueous solution of acetic acid.

16. (new) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the chitosan has a viscosity from about 40 cP to about 200 cP, measured on a 1% w/w chitosan solution in 1% aqueous solution of acetic acid.

17. (new) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the proportion between the length and diameter of the fibers is more than 80.

18. (new) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the proportion between the length and diameter of the fibers is more than 200.

19. (new) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the chitosan fibers have an absorption higher than about 30 g/g.

20. (new) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the ratio of acid to chitosan is from 3 to 15 mmol acid per gram chitosan.

21. (new) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the ratio of acid to chitosan is from 4 to 10 mmol acid per gram chitosan.
22. (new) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the ratio of acid to chitosan is from about 3 – 7.5 mmol acid per gram chitosan.
23. (new) A wound care device according to claim 1, characterized in that the ratio of acid to chitosan is from about 5 to 7 mmol acid per gram chitosan.